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## PUCK-ER UP! HOCKEY IS ON

We miss you, hockey. It's not the NHL, but some of Canada's best players hit the ice on Wednesday for the start of two international tournaments: the world junior championship in Russia and the Spengler Cup in Switzerland. On the left, Team Canada's Byron Ritchie vies for the puck with Florian Kettemer of Adler Mannheim, which stunned Canada's entry in the Spengler Cup by a score of 2-1 in overtime. On the right, forward Ryan Strome reacts after scoring on Germany during a game the Canadian juniors won 9-3. More coverage, page 31.

LEFT: ALVATORE DI NOLFI/KEYSTONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, RIGHT: NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Mall mayhem

Shoppers rise early for Boxing Day steals and deals PAGE 3

## Hey! iPads on the cheap

Savvy shoppers are saving money by buying refurbished products from Apple and other big brands PAGE 16

## Go small for New Year's

Ring in 2013 with mini mouthfuls packed with crab or bacon PAGE 30

# Winter returns to the GTA with dump of snow

**Weather woes.**
10 cm were expected overnight for Toronto

More snow than the GTA has seen since 2010 was expected to fall overnight as part of a storm that Environment Canada is calling "nasty."

Meteorologist Arnold Ashton said about 10 centimetres were likely to coat Toronto before the storm moves on.

"It's the combination of snow and blowing snow that makes this particularly nasty," Ashton said.

Conditions should be back to normal Thursday — just-freezing temperatures and clearer skies — as the system leaves Ontario, Ashton added.

The storm sent air travellers in Toronto scrambling for the second day in a row Wednesday as scheduled flights were scrapped over the impending storm.

Toronto's Pearson International Airport delayed or cancelled more than 100 incoming and outgoing flights to Canada and the U.S. Even today, travellers are advised to double-check their flight status before making their way to the airport.

South of the border, a powerful winter storm system has been pounding the U.S. midsection and is blamed for at least six deaths.

Deaths from highway collisions and wind-toppled trees were reported in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Budget review

## Committee approves $1M for Hardship Fund

As Toronto councillors sharpen their pencils in anticipation of January's 2013 budget deliberations, agencies serving vulnerable residents are watching to see that the Hardship Fund doesn't get lost in the shuffle again.

Last year, as part of city budget cuts, council voted to eliminate the $900,000 fund that helps cover the cost of prescription drugs, prosthetics, dentures, eyeglasses and funerals for low-income seniors and others who don't qualify for social assistance.

At the end of October, city council voted 27 to 11 in favour of reinstating the fund and directed staff to return it to the budget for 2013. The $1 million required to maintain the fund at current levels was approved by the city's budget review committee in December.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pearson airport

## Flights cancelled in anticipation of snowstorm

More than 200 flights were cancelled at Pearson International Airport on Wednesday as an intense storm closed in on Southern and Eastern Ontario.

The majority of cancelled flights were departing for or arriving from Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit and New York City. Air Canada also warned of potential disruptions of flights to Cleveland, Montreal and Ottawa on Thursday.

Environment Canada issued a special weather statement about a "dangerous winter storm" for areas in Southern and Eastern Ontario, including Toronto, York and Durham regions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Aritzia store at Yorkdale Shopping Centre was nearly at capacity at 7:35 a.m. on Boxing Day as shoppers searched for bargains. RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Shoppers rise early to deck the malls

**Visions of savings danced in their heads.** Consumers scour retail centres for deals — and parking spots — on Boxing Day

Thiviya Kanagasabesan was up before 5 a.m. on Boxing Day.

By 5:45, she was in line outside Best Buy in Vaughan, waiting to scout out deals on electronics. She bought a small TV before heading south to meet friends and hit Yorkdale Shopping Centre to partake in the annual materialistic mayhem that is Boxing Day.

At 7:50, she was one in a line of hundreds — some of whom said they got up as early as 4 — waiting for the grate over the entrance to the Zara clothing store to be lifted.

"It's funny, we can't get up early to study, but we can to go shopping," said Kanagasabesan with a laugh as the line began to move at 8, shoppers spreading out across the store.

By coming early, she hoped to "beat the crowd and get the best picks."

Yorkdale, wedged between Highway 401 and Allen Road, had about 105,000 shoppers on Boxing Day in 2011. This year, it expected 120,000, partly due to its expansion in November.

Electronics shoppers like Kanagasabesan dominated the early going on Wednesday, although Yorkdale's Zara was the only store with a sizable early-morning lineup (other than Starbucks, of course).

Steve Lam was first in it. He claimed his spot at about 7 to hit Zara, not for anything specific, just to have a look around. "I try to do it every Boxing Day."

Zara manager Haynia Fields said staff came in at 6 to get ready for the store's busiest day of the year. "Every single person" works Boxing Day, said Fields. That's more than 100 staff at the Yorkdale outlet alone.

"Everybody's taking the opportunity to get something they've wanted all year," said Fields before rushing off toward a table that displayed $25 stilettos.

By 8:45, drivers were circling parking lots looking for a space, calling out to ask others if they were leaving. The ominous word "Full" flashed on the board beside one, then two, lots.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**By the numbers**

- A December study released by the Bank of Montreal suggested 62 per cent of Canadians and 69 per cent of Ontarians planned to shop on Boxing Day.
- The Eaton Centre downtown had 287,000 Boxing Day shoppers in 2011 and expected it to be higher this year.

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# Tougher protections needed for Rouge park, groups say

**Green guarantees.** Environmentalists want province to put five conditions in place before transferring land to federal government

Little Rouge Creek winds through Rouge Park, which is slated to become part of Canada's first urban national park.
LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The environmental protections for the future Rouge National Urban Park will be less strict than those that currently exist, says a group of environmental organizations in a letter that was sent to Premier Dalton McGuinty earlier this month.

The groups are urging the provincial government to insist on five conditions before signing away large tracts of land on Toronto's eastern edge to the federal government, which will establish Canada's first urban national park.

"The draft National Park Concept is critically inconsistent with the public vision, planning, scientific and legislative framework developed over the last 23 years," says the letter, signed by the heads of Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature and Friends of the Rouge Watershed groups.

Rouge Park is currently a hodgepodge of lands cobbled together from municipal and provincial governments totalling almost 40 square kilometres in Toronto and Markham.

The future national park will add just under 20 sq. km of federal land, but can't be established until Ontario officially cedes land to Ottawa and Parks Canada.

**Leased land**

**60%**

**The conservation groups' letter also urged the province to get a guarantee from the federal government that all farming in the park will be sustainable. More than 60 per cent of the future park is slated to be leased to farmers and closed to the public.**

"The province is in a really strong position because it owns roughly two-thirds of the lands," said Erin Shapero, land and water program manager at Environmental Defence. The groups want Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli, who is heading the transfer process, to obtain more robust environmental guarantees for the future park.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Crowd funding. Toronto-based cartoonist raises $580,000 on Kickstarter

It was an unholy pairing of two completely different genres: Shakespeare and the choose-your-own-adventure book. So when Toronto-based cartoonist Ryan North pitched the idea of a choose-your-own-adventure comics version of Hamlet, he wasn't sure if the idea would gain any traction.

He then turned to the crowd-funding website Kickstarter to see if he could raise $20,000 — just enough to pay a few artists and get the book off the ground.

When the campaign ended on Dec. 21, a month after it was first launched, it had raised over $580,000 and gained the unofficial title of "Kickstarter's most successful publishing project."

On the last day alone, the project raked in $101,000, said North, still in disbelief.

"I wish I knew what I did to make that happen," he said. "When I launched the book, the greatest I thought I would do was $100K total. To do that in one day is nuts."

But so, too, perhaps, is the concept for the book. A modern retelling of Shakespeare's Hamlet, To Be or Not To Be: That Is the Adventure, told in a comic-book form that allows the reader to be a host of characters, choose from among 100 different deaths and take any path available. They can also follow the original story line, if the diversions seem a little too blasphemous.

Initially, North, creator of Dinosaur Comics, says the goal was to produce a book with 30 illustrations. But as the funding increased, he was required to become more creative, promising his donors more goodies along the way. At $100,000, he promised a sequel. At $300,000, he promised to print the book in full colour. At $400,000, he said the prequel called Poor Yorick would also be in colour.

But the end, he had enough money for a prequel and sequel, more than 60 artists involved, and pledges to donate hundreds of books to libraries and universities.

Eventually he couldn't think of anything else to add.

"I sort of ran out of ideas of how to make the book better at the $400,000 mark. It was at that point already the best they could be, but people kept going," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE


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## Grenada. Case against police accused of killing Toronto man in limbo

The manslaughter case against five Grenada police officers accused of beating a visitor from Canada to death a year ago remains tied up in legal knots, much to the disappointment of his widow.

A stay on their preliminary inquiry is in place while the country's High Court decides whether to grant a defence request for a coroner's inquest.

"There is no precedent for this in Grenada," said Christopher Nelson, director of public prosecutions.

"We've never had a case before where there was a criminal process started — namely a preliminary inquiry — and the accused person sought to have a coroner's inquest instead."

Prosecutors allege the officers beat Oscar Bartholomew, 39, into a fatal coma last Boxing Day in a cell in the hamlet of St. David's. Relatives said the altercation occurred after he bear-hugged a plainclothes police-woman he had mistaken for a friend and she yelled, "Rape!"

Oscar Bartholomew FACEBOOK.COM

Bartholomew lived in Toronto but was in his native Grenada to visit family with his wife of 10 years, Dolette Cyr. Angry family and friends wanted the officers charged with murder, and the case prompted demonstrations against what protesters called endemic police brutality.

The officers remain suspended at half-pay on bail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Christmas morning

### Man, son-in-law charged with attempted murder

A father and his son-in-law face attempted murder charges after allegedly stabbing the boyfriend of the father's ex-wife inside a Burlington home on Christmas morning. A fight broke out after some family members had too much to drink, according to Const. Brad Simpson. The stabbing victim is in critical but stable condition.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oshawa

### Police shoot man who broke into funeral home

A man was shot early Wednesday morning in Oshawa by police. The provincial police watchdog, which is now involved, says police were investigating a man who entered a funeral home. Officers waited outside and an hour later, the man drove a hearse through the home's garage door and was shot. He suffered non-life-threatening injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Roaring good times at the Toronto Zoo

**Boxing Day.** Annual event allows visitors to watch animals during their feeding times

Hundreds of kids and even some adults pressed their faces up against the glass windows in awe as Hudson bounced up and down on the rocks.

The one-year-old polar bear was a big attraction Wednesday during the Toronto Zoo's Boxing Day Treat Walk.

Zoo staff scheduled a variety of feedings so zoo-goers could watch animals such as Arctic wolves, Meer cats and polar bears eat. A number of the feedings came with short presentations about the animals and their habits.

More than 2,000 people were expected to take in some 5,000 species at the zoo Wednesday.

And for the 22nd straight year, Emmanuel Iheme braved the cold to continue a tradition that started for him in 1990. Four years after emigrating from Nigeria to go to school, Iheme brought his parents to the zoo. Visiting their son for the first time in Canada, the couple wanted to see some of the animals unique to Canada.

"They were excited to see them in the water and the snow," he said while waiting for the polar-bear feeding. "That was the main attraction when we came here."

Since he can remember, Wes Iheme and his sister Olivia have joined their father on Boxing Day to support the zoo and see some of their favourite animals.

The money made at the gate during half-price admission Wednesday will go to the Endangered Species Reserve Fund, which supports research and education initiatives that aid conservation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Polar bear cub Hudson waits to be fed at the Toronto Zoo on Wednesday. The annual Christmas Treats Trek allows visitors a chance to see animals being fed by zookeepers. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

An Arctic wolf has lunch at the Toronto Zoo. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A man and boy watch tropical fish Wednesday. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Post-Newtown tragedy

## Group offers free weapons training for Utah teachers

More than 200 Utah teachers are expected to pack a convention hall on Thursday for six hours of concealed-weapons training as organizers seek to arm more educators in the aftermath of the Connecticut school shooting.

The Utah Shooting Sports Council said it normally gathers a dozen teachers every year for instruction that's required to legally carry a concealed weapon in public places. The state's leading gun lobby decided to offer teachers the training at no charge to encourage turnout, and it worked.

Gun-rights advocates say teachers can act more quickly than law enforcement in the critical first few minutes to protect children from the kind of shooting that left 20 children and six adults dead Dec. 14 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Warehouses full'

## Overwhelmed Newtown officials seek to halt gifts

Officials in Newtown, Conn., are asking people to stop sending gifts to the grief-stricken community following the deadly school shooting, saying they're deeply grateful but can't handle the donation deluge.

They say since a gunman killed 20 first-graders and six educators on Dec. 14, gifts including artwork, school supplies and blankets have arrived from around the world.

The officials are asking people to temporarily stop sending gifts and instead distribute them locally in memory of the victims. They say once they process the "warehouses full of items," they'll detail the best ways to help. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monroe County Sheriff Deputy Chief Steve Scott, right, and Webster police Lt. Joseph Rieger stand by the photo of the dead and injured firefighters during a news conference in Webster, N.Y., Tuesday. MARIE DE JESUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Killer of two N.Y. firemen left rambling note: Police

**Ambush.** Shooter outlined desire to 'do what I like doing best, killing people'

William H. Spengler Jr.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The ex-convict turned sniper who lured two firefighters to their deaths by setting his house on fire wanted to make sure his goodbye note was legible, typing out his desire to "do what I like doing best, killing people," police said.

Police said 62-year-old William Spengler brought plenty of ammunition for three weapons including a military-style assault rifle as he set out to burn down his upstate New York neighbourhood just before sunrise on Christmas Eve.

"He was equipped to go to war, kill innocent people," Webster Police Chief Gerald Pickering said of a felon who wasn't allowed to possess weapons because of his criminal past. Spengler had served 17 years in prison for manslaughter in the 1980 killing of his grandmother with a hammer.

When firefighters arrived, Spengler unleashed a torrent of bullets, shattering the windshield of the fire truck that volunteer firefighter and police Lt. Michael Chiapperini, 43, was driving. Fellow firefighter Tomasz Kaczowka, 19, was killed as well.

Two other firefighters were struck by bullets. They remained hospitalized in stable condition and were expected to survive. Spengler killed himself as seven houses burned. Investigators on Tuesday found a body in the Spengler home, presumably that of the sister.

Authorities have begun analyzing the two- to three-page typewritten note he left behind. The police chief declined to reveal the note's full content, but read one line: "I still have to get ready to see how much of the neighbourhood I can burn down, and do what I like doing best, killing people." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


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# Spain seizes 11 tonnes of hashish

A police officer takes a photo on his cellphone of part of a haul of hashish and marijuana in Madrid, Wednesday. Police say the drugs were taken from Morocco on trucks with tanks rigged to hide the drugs. PAUL WHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Busted.** Confiscation described as one of country's biggest

Spanish police seized 11 metric tons of hashish smuggled from Morocco on trucks with fuel tanks rigged to hide the drugs and arrested 35 people in what was described as the breakup of a major smuggling ring feeding the European market, authorities said Wednesday.

The haul was displayed across a patio outside the headquarters of the National Police, with some hashish packaged in small amounts resembling bars of soap, while much of it was held in suitcases made out of tape and packaging material.

It was described as one of Spain's biggest drug seizures, but officials did not provide details of previous confiscations for comparison purposes.

Authorities said the hashish travelled in trucks that took cargo ferries from Morocco to southern Spain, and were then driven to a Madrid suburb where the hashish was extracted from the vehicles' fuel tanks. From there, some of the hashish was sent to Madrid for sale while the rest was put aboard other trucks carrying legal merchandise to countries including Belgium, Britain, France and Holland.

Those arrested included 31 Moroccans, three Spaniards and a Belgian woman. One of the Spaniards and the Belgian woman were truckers driving rigs with loads of carrots and clothing with the hashish hidden amid the legitimate cargo, National Police chief Ignacio Cosido said.

Cosido declined to put a value on the hashish seized except to say "it's very profitable."

Jose Luis Conde, who heads the National Police's Madrid division, declined to say whether the hashish originally came from Morocco, a major producer, saying only that it was from North Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Investigation details**

**Police also seized marijuana, cash, vehicles and cellphones during the course of an investigation that started when authorities broke up a hash-selling ring and went after the group's suppliers.**

- **Tracking.** The ring used GPS systems to track the movements of their hashish loads, and the specially designed gas tanks to hold the drugs were put back together again for reuse after being dismantled, police said.

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Possible drowning

## B.C. woman found dead in hot tub

An autopsy will be conducted on a 62-year-old Surrey, B.C., woman, who was found dead in her hot tub on Christmas Day.

Investigators believe she may have drowned on Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS/NEWS1130

Bloody clashes

## Tajikistan spares weapon owners from prosecution

Tajikistan says it will not pursue prosecutions against people who voluntarily handed in weapons after bloody armed clashes in July.

Prosecutors in the Central Asian nation said Wednesday weapons handed in included 118 handguns, 105 automatic rifles, explosives and ammunition.

At least 17 troops and 30 rebels were killed in the fighting in the town of Khorog as authorities sought to arrest a one-time warlord suspected in the killing of a general in Tajikistan's national intelligence service. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Improving health

## Mandela released from hospital

Former South African president Nelson Mandela was released Wednesday from the hospital after being treated for a lung infection and having gallstones removed, a government spokesman said.

The 94-year-old anti-apartheid icon will continue to receive "home-based high care" at his residence in Johannesburg until he fully recovers, said presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj.

Mandela had been in the hospital since Dec. 8. In recent days, officials have said he was improving and in good spirits, but doctors have taken extraordinary care with his health because of his age. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former South African president Nelson Mandela GETTY IMAGES

# Ex-president in intensive care unit

**George H.W. Bush.** Former head of the U.S. has been battling fever, bronchitis-like cough

A spokesman says former president George H.W. Bush is in the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital.

Bush's spokesman, Jim McGrath, said late Wednesday that the former president was admitted to the ICU on Sunday at Methodist Hospital, "following a series of setbacks, including a persistent fever."

McGrath says Bush is alert and conversing with medical staff, and that doctors are cautiously optimistic about his treatment.

No other details about his medical condition were provided, but McGrath says Bush is surrounded by family.

Former U.S. president George H.W. Bush GETTY IMAGES FILE

Earlier Wednesday, McGrath said a fever that kept Bush in the hospital over Christmas had gotten worse and that doctors had put him on a liquids-only diet.

A bronchitis-like cough initially brought Bush to the hospital in late November. McGrath says the cough has improved. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**High-flyer**

- The former president was a naval aviator in the Second World War — at one point the youngest in the navy — and was shot down over the Pacific.
- He achieved notoriety in retirement for skydiving on at least three of his birthdays since leaving the White House in 1992.

## Storm blamed for at least six deaths as it moves northeast

Rescuers work to move a driver injured in a wreck on a slick, snow-covered street in Columbus, Ind., on Wednesday. A powerful winter storm system pounded the nation's midsection Wednesday and headed toward the Northeast, where people braced for the high winds and heavy snow that disrupted holiday travel, knocked out power to thousands of homes and was blamed for at least six deaths. Hundreds of flights were cancelled or delayed, scores of motorists got stuck on icy roads or slid into drifts and blizzard warnings were issued.

JOE HARPRING/THE REPUBLIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Three rail workers hit by train

Three workers were struck and injured by a CN freight train Wednesday morning in Edmonton as they cleared snow and ice from rail switches along the tracks.

The men were being treated in hospital and two of the employees were reported to be in critical condition.

Staff Sgt. Rob Mills of the Edmonton police said the men were using snowblowers and wearing sound attenuators. They didn't hear the approaching train, which sounded its horn and hit the brakes as it slid toward them along the icy tracks.

Police said the eastbound train was going about 40 km/h.

The collision is being investigated by CN, Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety Department and federal safety regulators. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Quoted**

**"(The train) tried to do some emergency braking, but unfortunately struck the three employees."**

Edmonton Police Staff Sgt. Rob Mills

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# Putin to decide on new law banning U.S. adoptions

**Left behind.**
46 children on the verge of being adopted to remain in Russia if president approves bill passed in Parliament

Defying a storm of domestic and international criticism, Russia moved toward finalizing a ban on Americans adopting Russian children, as Parliament's upper house voted unanimously Wednesday in favour of a measure that President Vladimir Putin has indicated he will sign into law.

The bill is widely seen as the Kremlin's retaliation against an American law that calls for sanctions against Russians deemed to be human-rights violators. It comes as Putin takes an increasingly confrontational attitude toward the West, brushing aside concerns about a crackdown on dissent and democratic freedoms.

Dozens of Russian children close to being adopted by American families now will almost certainly be blocked from leaving the country. The law also cuts off the main international adoption route for Russian children stuck in often dismal orphanages: More than 60,000 Russian youngsters have been adopted in the United States in the past 20 years. There are about 740,000 children without parental care in Russia, according to UNICEF.

All 143 present members of the Federation Council voted to support the bill, which has sparked criticism from both the United States and Russian officials, activists and artists, who say it victimizes children by depriving them of the chance to escape the squalor of orphanage life. The vote comes days after Parliament's lower house overwhelmingly approved the ban.

Originally, Russia's lawmakers cobbled together a more or less tit-for-tat response to the U.S. law, allowing for travel sanctions and the seizure of financial assets in Russia owned by Americans determined to have violated the rights of Russians.

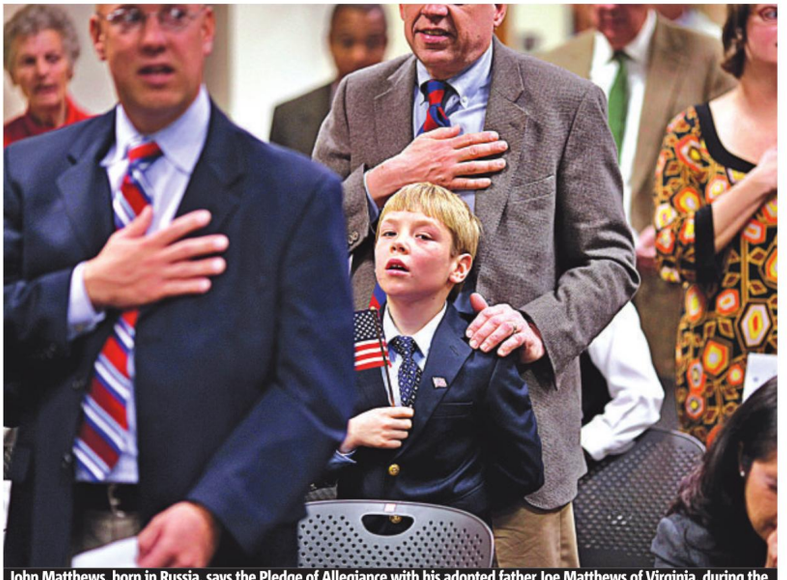
But it was expanded to include the adoption measure and call for a ban on any organizations that are engaged in political activities if they receive funding from U.S. citizens or are determined to be a threat to Russia's interests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dissent**

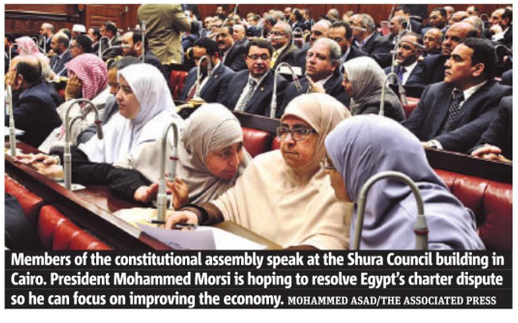
**By Tuesday, more than 100,000 Russians had signed an online petition urging the Kremlin to scrap the bill.**

- **Star endorsement.** While receiving a state award from Putin on Wednesday, film actor Konstantin Khabensky wore a badge saying "Children Are Beyond Politics." Veteran rock musician Andrey Makarevich called on Putin Monday to stop "killing children."



John Matthews, born in Russia, says the Pledge of Allegiance with his adopted father Joe Matthews of Virginia, during the U.S. children's citizenship ceremony last year. Russia moved toward finalizing a ban on Americans adopting Russian children on Wednesday. The bill is named in honour of Dima Yakovlev, a Russian toddler who was adopted by Americans and then died in 2008 after his father left him in a car in broiling heat for hours. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

# Morsi calls for dialogue on new, disputed constitution



Members of the constitutional assembly speak at the Shura Council building in Cairo. President Mohammed Morsi is hoping to resolve Egypt's charter dispute so he can focus on improving the economy. MOHAMMED ASAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt's Islamist president proclaimed the country's newly adopted constitution as the dawning of a "new republic" in a television address Wednesday, calling on the opposition to join a dialogue with him after a month of violent turmoil and focus on repairing a damaged economy.

Mohammed Morsi sought to present the Islamist-drafted charter as the turning of a historic page for Egypt, but his speech did little to ease the suspicions of those who fear he and his Muslim Brotherhood are entrenching their power. He offered no concrete gestures to an opposition that has so far rejected his dialogue and vowed to fight the constitution.

Instead, with a triumphalist tone, he presented the constitution, which was approved by nearly 64 per cent of voters in a referendum that ended last weekend, as creating a democracy with balanced powers between branches of government and political freedoms.

"We don't want to return to an era of one opinion and fake, manufactured majorities. The maturity and consciousness (of voters) heralds that Egypt (is) set on a path of democracy with no return," Morsi said. "Regardless of the results, for the sake of building the nation, efforts must unite. There is no alternative to a dialogue that is now a necessity."

Opponents say the low turnout in the referendum, just under 33 per cent, undermines the document's legitimacy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Real democracy?**

**Egypt's opposition says the charter's provisions for greater implementation of Islamic, or Shariah, law would allow Islamists who hold the presidency and dominate the temporary legislature to restrict civil rights and limit the freedoms of minorities and women. They urged Morsi to postpone the referendum.**

# France should have done more for us: Protesters

**Central African Republic.** French asked to leave country amid growing anxieties in capital over rebel takeover

Angry protesters carrying clubs threw rocks at the French Embassy in Central African Republic on Wednesday, criticizing the former colonial power for failing to do more to stem a rapid rebel advance as fears grew that the insurgents aim to seize the capital.

The demonstrations began earlier in the day outside the U.S. Embassy before about 100 protesters then took to the French Embassy.

"It's France who colonized us — they should support us until the end. Unfortunately, they have done nothing. In this case, we are merely asking, purely and simply, that they leave our country," shouted one young demonstrator in front of the French mission in Bangui.

"These people have taken down the French flag from its pole and removed it," said Serge Mucetti, the French ambassador to Central African Republic. "They have carried out stone-throwing in the area of the embassy and have broken windows. This kind of behaviour is unacceptable."

Air France confirmed Wednesday that its once-a-week flight to Bangui turned back because of protests at the French Embassy.

Many fear that Bangui, a city of about 600,000 people, could be the scene of a battle between government forces and the rebels. The fighters already have seized at least 10 towns, meeting little resistance from soldiers.

"Our intention is not to take Bangui. We still remain open to dialogue," said Rebel Col. Djouma Narkoyo

Bangui residents continue to be skeptical of the insurgents' intentions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Chances slim for Breezy Point beached whale

People walk past a beached finback whale, still alive, in the Breezy Point neighbourhood in the Queens borough of New York City on Wednesday. Breezy Point was hit especially hard by Superstorm Sandy. Biologist Mendy Garron says it's unclear what caused the whale to beach itself, but its chances of survival appear slim. Finback whales are on the endangered species list.

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# Fatal plane crash scars Myanmar

**Christmas Day disaster.** Two dead, including a man on the ground where the plane landed

Survivors of a Christmas Day crash-landing of an airliner in Myanmar told terrifying tales of escape Wednesday as carrier Air Bagan apologized for what it called the worst accident since it started flying in 2004.

Details of the crash remain unclear, but airline officials told a news conference Wednesday that they found the plane's two black boxes and were investigating. So far, officials have blamed heavy fog for the aircraft's crash into a rice paddy field where it burst into flames. Two died and 11 were injured, including four foreigners.

The Fokker 100 jet was 21 years old but passed inspections at annual renewals of its air-worthiness certificate, officials said. It was carrying 71 people on Tuesday, including 48 foreigners, from the city of Yangon via Mandalay to Heho Airport, which is the gateway to the popular tourist destination Inle Lake.

**Survivor account**

**"It was hot, and we knew straight away we didn't have much time to get out."**

**Australian advertising executive Anna Bartsch,** 31, one of the survivors.

"We felt the first bump, then a few big bumps and then (started) sliding very fast," said 31-year-old Australian advertising executive Anna Bartsch.

The plane came to a stop, and they felt relief — then panic.

"In my window I saw the flames," Bartsch said during an interview at a Yangon hotel where the airline lodged passengers after evacuation.

Passengers rushed up the aisle to the front door, which was initially stuck shut, she said.

"We didn't know then that the wings had come off," Bartsch said.

The door was quickly forced open and passengers raced from the plane, she said. Once on safe ground, Bartsch said she saw the pilot and co-pilot with bloodied faces and other people with serious burns.

A flight attendant told reporters Wednesday that the crew realized something was wrong only when the plane hit the ground.

The Air Bagan flight, packed with Christmas tourists, crash-landed on a road in central Myanmar on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We shouted, 'This is an emergency,'" said flight attendant Khaing Su Naing, adding that, despite one of the two doors initially getting stuck, the crew evacuated the plane 90 seconds after it stopped moving.

The Information Ministry said the pilot mistook a road near the airport for the runway before stopping in a nearby rice paddy. It was unclear if the plane made its crash landing on the road or the rice field.

All fatalities were Myanmar citizens, including a man riding a motorcycle where the plane came down and a tour guide aboard the plane. There were earlier reports of an 11-year-old child also among the dead.

YADANA HTUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## Japan. Seventh leader in six years talks tough on economy, army, Beijing

Shinzo Abe took office as Japan's seventh prime minister in six years Wednesday and vowed to overcome the deep-rooted economic and diplomatic crises facing his country.

Abe was elected Japan's leader hours earlier, bringing back to power the conservative, pro-business Liberal Democratic Party that governed for most of the post-World War II era. It replaces the liberal-leaning government of the Democratic Party of Japan that lasted three years.

"A strong economy is the source of energy for Japan. Without regaining a strong economy, there is no future for Japan," Abe told his first news conference after becoming prime minister for the second time.

Calling his administration a "crisis-breakthrough cabinet," Abe promised to launch bold economic measures to pull Japan out of deflation. He also vowed to step up an alliance with the United States to stabilize Japan's diplomacy shaken by increasing territorial threats from its neighbours.

The outspoken and often hawkish leader has promised to restore growth to an economy that has been struggling for 20 years. His administration also faces souring relations with China and a complex debate over whether resource-poor Japan should wean itself off nuclear energy after last year's earthquake and tsunami, which set off the worst nuclear crisis since Chornobyl.

On top of that, he will have to win over a public that gave his party a lukewarm mandate in elections on Dec. 16, along with keeping at bay a still-powerful opposition in parliament. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Better now**

- Shinzo Abe, whose nationalist positions have in the past angered Japan's neighbours, was also prime minister in 2006-2007 before resigning for health reasons that he says are no longer an issue.

Shinzo Abe THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**B.C. experiment**

## Kindness may end bullying: Study

New research from the University of B.C. has found that children who perform small acts of kindness tend to boost their own happiness, which may help counteract bullying.

One group of Vancouver elementary school children were asked to report on their happiness after helping others, while another tracked visits to pleasant places.

While both groups reported a boost in happiness, the children who were kind said they wanted to work with a higher number of classmates on school activities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Dennis Lehane**

## Find dog, get immortalized

Author Dennis Lehane is offering to name a character in his next book after whoever finds Tessa, the family dog, who disappeared from the family's home in Massachusetts this week.

Lehane wrote Mystic River, Gone Baby Gone, Shutter Island and other books.

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## Competitive shopping, Boxing Day style

Department store shoppers reach out to grab a bargain at a perfume counter on Wednesday in London, England. In Toronto, Boxing Day buyers were just as eager as they lined up in sub-zero temperatures outside downtown stores or scoured the Eaton Centre for savings. A new survey of 1,000 Canadians found that roughly six in 10 respondents planned to shop on one of the busiest days of the year for retailers. The poll was commissioned by Bank of Montreal and conducted by Pollara. PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

# Pssst — want a discounted iPad?

**Used electronics.** Buyers who source refurbished items direct from Apple and other big-name brands report that their experience is positive

**Quoted**

**"I would put (refurbished products) through every test imaginable as soon as I got them home. If something's going to fail, I want it to fail almost immediately so I can have it taken care of."** Rene Ritchie, editor of the Apple blog iMore, who has purchased used products from both Apple and big box stores.

Consumers looking to save a few bucks and pick up a lightly used iPad don't have to risk dealing with potentially shady characters via online classified ads or auction sites.

They can deal directly with Apple, one of many companies that are now choosing to sell previously used refurbished goods to consumers at discounted prices.

Consumer Reports considers buying refurbished goods from trusted manufacturers and retailers to be only "a slightly higher risk" than buying new.

And the web is filled with positive stories from users who have been pleased to buy used products from Apple that appeared to be as good as new.

"It's essentially the safest way, in my opinion, to buy something (used) online because it's the manufacturer itself doing the (repair) work and you don't have to worry that someone dropped them, or there's water damage you can't see, or they're not telling you if there's any other defects or problems," says Rene Ritchie, editor of the Apple blog iMore, who has purchased several refurbished MacBook laptops and an iPad without incident.

Apple says it has a "stringent" refurbishment process and although its used products may have some cosmetic imperfections, they should work perfectly. They come with a new battery and a one-year warranty, just like Apple's new products.

Some recent offerings in the refurbished section at Apple.ca included a WiFi and mobile-ready iPad 2 with 64 gigabytes of storage for $579, about 31 per cent off the regular price. Mac mini computers ranged from 21 to 31 per cent off, MacBook Pros from 15 to 33 per cent off, and MacBook Airs were discounted by 13 to 28 per cent.

Similar deals on different products can be found through big-box stores such as Best Buy, Future Shop and Staples, although their warranties typically aren't as generous as Apple's. Buying an extended warranty is usually an option, although the added cost might negate the savings of buying used.

Other companies that offer refurbished products online include Dell, Epson and IBM.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**A tall order**

## It's all up to the baristas now: Starbucks tries to avert fiscal cliff

Starbucks is using its coffee cups to jump into the U.S. political fray.

The world's biggest coffee chain is asking employees at cafés in the Washington, D.C., area to scribble the words "come together" on cups for drink orders on Thursday and Friday. CEO Howard Schultz says the words are intended as a message to lawmakers about the damage being caused by the divisive negotiations over the so-called fiscal cliff.

It's the first time employees at the firm's U.S. cafés are being asked to write anything other than customers' names on cups.

Starbucks is also taking out an ad in the Washington Post on Thursday showing a cup with the words "come together" on it.

The fiscal cliff refers to the steep tax hikes and spending cuts set to take effect Jan. 1, unless the White House and Congress reach an agreement to avoid them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Boxing Day Continues Until Dec 31st

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# IN-BETWEEN-MAS, MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/voices/he-says

I'm here to tell you you've been celebrating the holidays incorrectly.

Chances are you were either toque over heels for Christmas, or you're anxiously awaiting New Year's Eve so you can show off your ability to count backward from 10 while drunk. In either case, you're focusing on the wrong things.

The truth is that the best part of the holidays is actually In-between-mas — the corridor from Boxing Day to Dec. 30, when the Christmas lights glow in a quiet house, and those you love visit in quiet pairs instead of in massive clots.

The leadup to Christmas is a pain. Holiday commercialism starts so early you could merge the Labour Day and Santa Clause parades without too much trouble. ("This next float, Janet, is the National Union of Hospitality Workers, Corrections Officers, and Elves Local 992, and they look fabulous.")

Dec. 25 is no better. Kids who three days later will spontaneously say, "I love you, Uncle John" just because they feel like it are, on Christmas Day, voracious toy-opening machines who will rip apart their 82nd gift at 5:43 a.m. and then look around with a "That's ALL?!" wail worthy of Les Miserables.

This is usually followed by a dinner that's nice enough but too crowded and may or may not involve your mother yelling, "Why can't we have a nice Christmas?!" while she runs off to cry. (That happened decades ago, but twice, so it's tradition.)

**Time to get excited**

**A playing DVD is better than a wrapped present that couldn't possibly be anything but a DVD.**

My relationship with New Year's is less complicated. I hate it, end of story. It's an obligatory party built for disappointment, with everyone either too drunk or not drunk enough, depending on the year.

The year is dying, and as with all funerals we make solemn promises to ourselves to live our lives better. Then, 10 minutes later, we're in a Burger King drive-thru honking at the guy in front of us who didn't notice that the line started moving again 10 freaking seconds ago. What an idiot, right?

New Year's only saving grace is watching people sing Auld Lang Syne despite not really knowing the words and definitely not knowing what they mean. Heartwarming in its group doofishness.

So the time to get excited about each holiday season is the interstitial period between Christmas and New Year's.

Turkey sandwiches are better than hot turkey. A playing DVD is better than a wrapped present that couldn't possibly be anything but a DVD. Enjoying a solitary beer with a brother is better than force-feeding yourself drinks on New Year's. And relaxing with immediate family members in the aftermath of Christmas hubbub is better than a once-a-year conversation with a relative who you have nothing in common with but psoriasis.

I've stayed in Toronto instead of heading home to the Maritimes the last three Christmases, but I think I'll break that run next year. I'll land for In-between-mas on Dec. 26. You can count on me.

# Hounds of the hunt kept at bay

MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES

**British tradition**

## Bid to lift ban on hunts doomed?

Huntsman Stuart Radbourne led Avon Vale Hunt riders and hounds for their traditional Boxing Day hunt Wednesday in Lacock, England.

As hundreds of hunts met Wednesday, British Environment Secretary Owen Paterson claimed that moves to repeal the ban on hunting with dogs in England and Wales may not happen in 2013, although he insisted it was still the government's intention to give MPs a free vote on lifting the ban. GETTY IMAGES

**Numbers tell the story**

## 300

**BBC News says more than 300 hunts held Boxing Day meet in Britain. Scotland banned using dogs to hunt animals in 2002, and England and Wales followed suit in 2005. According to studies conducted by animal-welfare charities such as the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports, only about 15 per cent of people in Britain want the bans lifted.**

**California dreaming**

## Another U.S. state hounds out hunt

Gary Ramey and his adult daughter travelled 4,000 kilometres from Gainesville, Ga., to hunt California bears with hounds last month. The time-honoured tradition won't be legal after Jan. 1, when the U.S. state outlaws the use of dogs to hunt bobcats and bears.

Seventeen states still permit hounds to hunt bears, while 15 ban the practice. The other 18 do not allow bear hunting at all, according to the Humane Society of the United States, which pushed for California's law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Chicken?**

## "The difference is no one feels sorry for pheasants.... They're really pretty, but they're chickens."

**Holly Heyser, journalism lecturer at California State University, Sacramento, who blogs about hunting. She signed up two weeks ago to experience a hunt while she could.**

Heyser equated shooting treed bears to using dogs to flush pheasants.

# Spider-Man in a perilous predicament

After 50 years of spinning webs and catching a who's-who of criminals, Peter Parker is out of the hero game.

But Spider-Man is still slinging from building to building — reborn, refreshed and revived. Writer Dan Slott, who's been penning Spidey adventures for the better part of the last 100 issues for Marvel Entertainment, said the culmination of the story is a new, dramatically different direction for the Steve Ditko- and Stan Lee-created hero.

In the pages of the final issue, number 700, out Wednesday, Parker's mind is trapped in the withered, decaying dying body of his nemesis, Doctor Octopus a.k.a Otto Octavius. Where's Doc Ock? Inside Parker's superpowered shell, learning what life is like for the researcher.

The cover of the final issue of The Amazing Spider-Man. MARVEL COMICS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The two clash mightily in the pages of issue 700, illustrated by Humberto Ramos and Victor Olazaba. But it's Octavius who wins out, and Parker is, at least for now, gone for good, but not before one more act of heroism.

Slott said that it's Parker, whose memories envelop Octavius, who shows the villain what it means to be a hero.

Editor Stephen Wacker called it a fitting end to the old series, which sets the stage for a new one — "The Superior Spider-Man" early next year — because it brings Peter Parker full circle, from the start of his crime-fighting career to the end. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Twitter**

**@LizSetsFire**
Just put on my gloves and socked my co-worker in the face. That's how it works right? #boxingday

**@josieestrazzeri**
sales at artizia: orginal price, $300.00 sale price, $299.00 #boxingday

**@lisalockw00dz**
If my bank account had feelings... It would be very depressed right now... But I'm happy!! #boxingday

**@Shadooneh**
happy spending. NOT! #boxingday

**@amandabeetee**
Still trying to find the perfect cold remedy. Tonight I'm going to try Tarantino and a burrito #sick #boxingday

**@sweetcheapTO**
The #EatonCentre is the 4th Circle of Hell...don't go there.

metro
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Wherever you end up that night, remember that the company is the most important part. ISTOCK IMAGES

# What does your New Year's Eve in Toronto look like?

**Ring in the new year.** Plenty of options for music, film and food

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Let's face it, the people, not the activity, are what make a great New Year's Eve. But that doesn't mean that you and your besties need to ring in the New Year at home playing Settlers of Catan (you can do that any night).

For those craving a few hours of outdoor family-friendly fun, there's always CityTV's annual New Year's Eve Bash at Nathan Phillips Square.

Admission is free, making this the best bang for your buck option outside of a house party. Shawn Desman, Jully Black and Johnny Reid are amongst this year's performers. Of course, this is an alcohol free event, so those looking to imbibe might want to look elsewhere for kicks.

There are clubs galore offering up a variety of options, most involve at least one free glass of bubbly, with prices starting around the $100 mark.

Some of the city's best bands have booked gigs, with the Sadies once again taking the stage at the Legendary Horseshoe Tavern for the 11th year in a row for just $25.

If the Good Brothers' brand of country-roots rock isn't your thing, then maybe Sheezer is a better option. For $25, you can watch the all-female Weezer cover band (they skip the lack-lustre post-millennium albums and stick to material from the Blue Album and Pinkerton) take over the El Mocambo as part of the Young Lions Music Club's year-end shindig.

Dec. 31 is a boon for DJs. But if the pounding beats of robot rock aren't your thing, maybe Bangs and Blush at Clinton's Tavern is more up your alley.

Showcasing '60s pop and soul music, there's no better way to face the future than by looking back. Tickets are $15.

Restaurants are another option, with no shortage of places offering special packages for the evening.

Those looking for a culinary celebration a little off the beaten path would be advised to check out Dim Sum King on Dundas Street. Along with $5-dim sum platters, expect DJs, Chinese lion dancers and champagne for your $50 ticket.

Despite all the fuss, some people would just rather see a movie, in which case the Bloor Cinema is holding the Dude's New Year's Party, complete with bowling, White Russians and, naturally, a screening of the Coen brothers' cult classic the Big Lebowski.

It'll really tie the year together.

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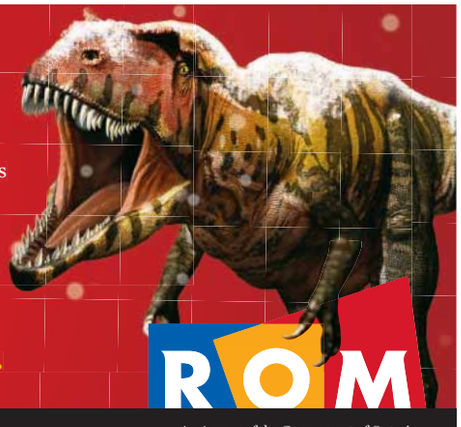

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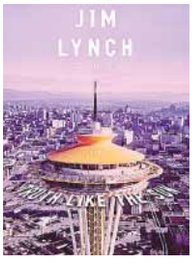
# Authors pick their favourite books of 2012

## Peter Ames Carlin: Truth Like the Sun by Jim Lynch




"Set in the Seattles of 1962 and 2001, Lynch's novel tracks his characters through decades of civic idealism, corruption, death and rebirth. His darkly hilarious portrait of modern journalism is alone worth the price of admission."
— Peter Ames Carlin is author of the Bruce Springsteen biography, Bruce.

## John Irving: Jack Holmes and His Friend by Edmund White

"What I admire most about Jack Holmes and His Friend is the seamlessness of the shifts in point of view and narrative voice. It is a novel about the friendship between a gay man and his straight friend, and it is not only written from each of their points of view, it is written in both the third person and the first person. I find that very hard to do, but Edmund makes it look easy."
— John Irving is the author of In One Person.

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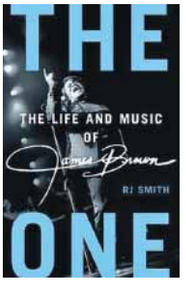
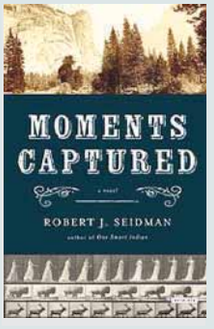
## Alan Light: The One: The Life and Music of James Brown by R.J. Smith



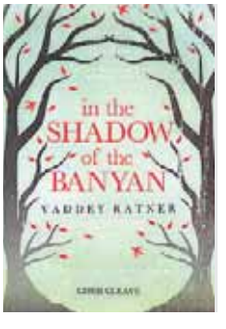

"This was an ambitious, comprehensive, and long-overdue biography of a towering figure in music across the globe."
— Alan Light is author of The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of Hallelujah.

## Stephen Davis: Moments Captured by Robert J. Seidman




"It's a novel about Eadweard Muybridge. This is the guy who invented the moving image. He completely changed the way that humanity sees itself. Edison took it and ran with it, and changed it from something mechanical to something chemical. But this novel is an evocation of a very pivotal time in the history of the moving image, between two-dimensional still image and image that actually moved."
— Stephen Davis is author of More Room in a Broken Heart: The True Adventures of Carly Simon.

## Chris Cleave: In the Shadow of the Banyan by Vaddey Ratner; The Yellow Birds by Kevin Powers




"2012 has been a strikingly good year for debut fiction, with almost every month announcing the arrival of a major talent. If I am to single out two novels from this vintage crop, I would choose Vaddey Ratner's sublime In the Shadow of the Banyan — a beautiful and heart-rending take on the Cambodian genocide — and Kevin Powers' The Yellow Birds, chronicling one soldier's harrowing experience of war in Iraq. Both writers draw deeply on their own experience, bringing a hard-won wisdom to which their literary gift is equal. This is the novel at its best, taking us far beyond the ordinary for a few hours and leaving us spooked and exhilarated."
— Chris Cleave is the author of Gold.

**METRO**

# Lesley Nicol on what's cooking at Downton Abbey

**Interview.** Actress weighs in on life on set and gives us a taste of how things may pan out for the Crawley family and their minions in the third season

STEPHEN ERAMO
scene@metronews.ca

In 2010, a British-American period TV drama called Downton Abbey took the world by storm.

Three seasons later, fans still eagerly tune in to watch the latest goings-on in the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family and their servants, all of whom live together in the fictional Yorkshire country estate of Downton Abbey.

Keeping everyone well-fed is Downton's cook, Mrs. Beryl Patmore, played by the lovely and talented Lesley Nicol. Although it was two years ago, she will not soon forget her first time stepping foot into Downton as Mrs. Patmore.

**Watch it**

**Downton Abbey season three premieres Jan. 6 on Masterpiece on PBS. All three seasons begin airing on VisionTV on Jan. 2 at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT.**

"I should explain that all my scenes are shot at Ealing Film Studios in London," says Nicol.

"The kitchen, the servants' quarters and hall, and the corridors are all sets at Ealing, and then an hour away is Highclere Castle (which plays as Downton Abbey). They shoot all the upstairs scenes there, and because Mrs. Patmore, for legitimate reasons, doesn't stray far from her kitchen, I rarely get to Highclere.

"So for me to film a scene in the library with Hugh Bonneville (the Earl of Grantham) was quite extraordinary, not only because it's such an amazing room and building, but also to watch my character go from the safety of her kitchen to be with her boss, who she hardly knows and is scared of. That was very memorable for me and great fun, too."

A skilled cook who knows her away around a kitchen, Mrs. Patmore can sometimes be a bit bossy, especially with the younger staff.

She means well, though, and Nicol has been able to show viewers that, along with other facets of her character.

"What's brilliant about (series creator/executive producer/writer) Julian Fellowes is that he gives you one aspect of a character, and then because of circumstances, you see another side," says the actress.

**Character development**

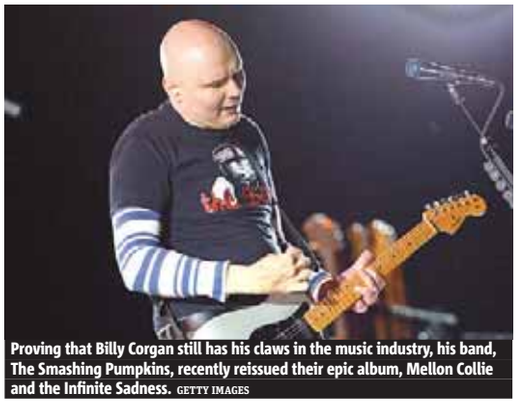
**"I can say that in season three, you'll see much more of Mrs. Patmore and Mrs. Hughes banding together rather than opposed to each other, which was also wonderful to investigate."**

**Lesley Nicol** on her character Mrs. Patmore.

"So when, for instance, we find out about Mrs. Patmore's nephew, who was apparently shot for cowardice (in the military), that opens up a whole other seam of her life and reveals a very vulnerable woman.

"Although I can't speak in detail, I can say that in season three, you'll see much more of Mrs. Patmore and Mrs. Hughes (Phyllis Logan) banding together rather than opposed to each other, which was also wonderful to investigate."

**Lesley Nicol plays Mrs. Beryl Patmore, Downton's sometimes bossy cook.** CARNIVAL FILM & TELEVISION LIMITED 2012 FOR MASTERPIECE



Proving that Billy Corgan still has his claws in the music industry, his band, The Smashing Pumpkins, recently reissued their epic album, Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness. GETTY IMAGES

# Let's get ready to rock and rumble

**Smashing Pumpkins to smashing heads.** Billy Corgan finds success as a wrestling promoter

Billy Corgan had a night off from the latest Smashing Pumpkins tour and a night out with The Blue Meanie.

No, that's not the next up-and-coming band with a colourful name, along the lines of the White Stripes or the Black Keys.

The Blue Meanie is a professional wrestler — yes, hair and beard dyed cobalt blue to match his worn T-shirt — and Corgan was his tag-team partner for a Friday night road trip to an independent wrestling show in New Jersey.

His next Smashing Pumpkins concert was a night away, and Corgan wasn't going to miss it. The musician-songwriter is more than just another celebrity immersed in wrestling as some sort of quirky promotional stunt.

Corgan's childhood fandom of the high-flying moves and outlandish story lines morphed into a serious passion for the craft and real-life drama that goes with it. For the past year, the Smashing Pumpkins' frontman has worked as the behind-the-scenes brainchild for the Resistance Pro Wrestling promotion out of Illinois. He teamed up with R-Pro owners, brothers Gabe and Jacques Baron, to raise the diminished expectations that usually come with a typical weekend indie show and make the company a smashing success over the first 10 cards.

Stretched out in a Philadelphia hotel room, Corgan explained he's in the wrestling business for the long haul.

"I like that it makes people uncomfortable," Corgan said. "I like that it's not an easy thing to explain. I like when it's great, it's amazing; when it's bad, it's really, really bad."

Corgan's music career has pretty much been all great since he founded the seminal 1990s alternative rock band that keeps churning out acclaimed records, like their latest, Oceania, even as they endured a break up, lawsuits, and multiple lineup changes. He shifted his talents to R-Pro as the creative director, where he consults with wrestlers and maps out old-school story lines with a modern twist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CD Pick

## Listen to the Voices in My Head

Are you a jazz lover? If so, you'll want to hear Joe "Jojo" Bowden's newly-released debut recording, Voices In My Head. Combining the hard edge of jazz improvisation with the solid backbeat of rhythm and blues and featuring all original music, Voices In My Head highlights Joe's intimate understanding of synchronicity, musicality and versatility. For a sneak peak, visit metronews.ca/scene. METRO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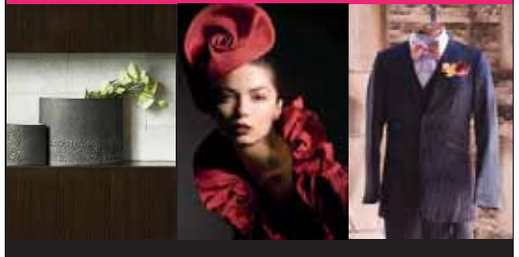

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TORONTO

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

After reading some tea leaves, shuffling a virtual deck of tarot cards and participating in a seance with an extra from a Kevin Bacon movie (that guy was just seven degrees of separation from every star on the planet), we've divined several fantasy couples the paparazzi will be all over in the new year.

**MIKE DOJC**
life@metronews.ca

## Jennifer Lawrence & Justin Bieber

Sorry Selena Gomez, but Bieber is a young buck and he is going to sow his oats. After they call it quits again, he'll cavort with a few models, play the young Hollywood field and then get nostalgic for the good old days when he was half of a glamorous power couple. And the mere sight of the Biebs walking down the red carpet with the Hunger Games hottie on his arm might just start a tweenage riot. On their first date, Jen can show her new beau how to string a bow, and the Boyfriend crooner can reciprocate by styling her hair.

## Leonardo DiCaprio & Yvonne Strahovski

Leo certainly has a type — blond tressed, luscious lipped, S.I. Swimsuit calibre model with legs that go on forever. Aussie stunner Strahovski (Chuck, Dexter) hits all those marks and she'd also make an exquisite addition to a "I canoodled with DiCaprio" calendar, fitting right in with former flames Gisele Bündchen, Bar Refaeli, Erin Heatherton and Blake Lively.

## Gerard Butler & Heidi Klum

With Seal now out of the picture, there are plenty of A-list fish in the sea raring to nibble on the Project Runway host's manicured toes. But Heidi knows what she wants, so choosing a man is as easy as deciding whether to wear Cavalli or Versace. While Klum's been carrying on with her bodyguard, she'd scotch her security detail with benefits to make schnitzel with this leading man.

## Danny DeVito & Lady Gaga

After splitting from Rhea Perlman, his wife of 30 years, DeVito (It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia) sets his sights on a less age appropriate amore. The timing couldn't be any better for the pop singer known for her unhinged fashion sense either. Gaga could really use a high profile fling, even if it turns into a bad romance. Maybe she can even land a part in Triplets, the long awaited sequel to 1988's Twins.

## Amy Poehler & Jamie Foxx

After parting ways with hubby Will Arnett this past fall, Poehler (Parks and Recreation) is looking for a new funny man to light up her world. The smooth talking Foxx, who plays the president in White House Down and a freed slave in Django Unchained, is just what the doctor ordered to get sassy Poehler back in the relationship game.

If it's on your New Year's to-do list to shake up your style, you're in luck! Barbara Atkin, vice-president of fashion direction for Holt Renfrew, fashion and media maven Jeanne Beker, LouLou editor-in-chief Julia Cyboran and Hello! Canada fashion and beauty editor Julia Seidl are here to suggest five fashionable trends worthy of trying out in 2013.

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 5 trends to watch for in 2013

## The tunic

Whether worn with sleeves or without, the loose-fitting garment was featured prominently on runways at home and abroad, perhaps most notably in Milan among the colourful, luxe looks unveiled from Italian fashion house Gucci. "In the past, it may have looked like a little mini-dress. But today, we're going to layer it over a skinny legging or that new knee-length bicycle short," says Atkin. "The tunic is really looking new."

Atkin says the garment can be paired with a skirt as well — be it a slim pencil silhouette or a flirtier version — and will be seen in soft, easy silks, sheers or even more constructed fabrics like cotton.

## Transparency

See-through accessories give a whole new meaning to the phrase "barely there."

"It's anything from the new lucite heel to an actual transparent shoe which is made of PVC or vinyl," says Atkin of the look which she describes as the "new neutral." Tote bags and belts are also popping up in PVC fabrications, she notes.

But for those concerned about their valuables being visible within a transparent bag, Atkin suggests purchasing different prints from the fabric store to line the interior. "You can change it up, and that's such an inexpensive way of doing it."

## Headwear

While the young New York socialites of Gossip Girl may be heading off the airwaves, fashion fans can still channel their inner Blair Waldorf by sporting a style popularized by the teen soap: headbands.

Seidl says she's liking mod-style headbands such as those spotted on the spring runway at Louis Vuitton with pretty, bow details. Young starlets like Elle Fanning are also being seen wearing full-wrap, elastic fabric versions of the accessory, she notes.

For those on the hunt for a new topper or looking to try their hand, er, head, at sporting a hat, the fedora may be just the ticket.

At Hedi Slimane's debut show at Saint Laurent Paris last fall, Atkin says every model was sporting the headpiece. "Literally, the next day in Paris, every woman on the street pulled out their fedora or went looking for one."

## Peplum

It's prime time to get ruffled. Expect to see plenty more peplum in 2013, as the ruffle or short overskirt, which attaches to the waistlines of garments, is set to make an even bigger sartorial splash in the new year.

"Peplum has been dominant now for the last few runway seasons and it's not going away," says Cyboran. "We saw it again on the spring 2013 runways and it's something that has finally translated to the market. So we're seeing them everywhere and we've become comfortable with that silhouette — and it's a silhouette that can really flatter."

The peplum can add a touch of feminine appeal to a silhouette by cinching at the waist, she noted.

## Go bold

The movement toward embracing richer shades in the wardrobe, which was prominent in 2012, will continue in earnest in the new year in an unexpected way: leather. While black and brown is standard in leather looks, new collections from Toronto-based Lucian Matis and New York label Proenza Schouler featured vibrant shades like red and mustard, noted Seidl. "It's kind of in this rainbow of colours and also the different textures," she says, pointing to the use of croc-embossed patterns seen in select leather creations.

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The Kit

# Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

## Jenna
## Designer

**What she's wearing**
Vintage boots and work pants, scarf knit by sister, her mother's hat, bag from Portobello Road Market

**Her inspiration**
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@Jeanne_Beker: Arghhh! Wrapping at 2:15am. Where are the elves when you need them?

@Jeanne_Beker: Singing Silent Night! A cozy night of caroling. Holiday bliss!

@Jeanne_Beker: Gus and his new plush bone. (And he got a dog-sledding harness from the Yukon)

@Jeanne_Beker: Best xmas gift? Box of fridge magnets featuring my TwitPics of those I love. Thank you @tammyskleung

Must be legal drinking age.

# Swedish blog star struts boldly into new year

**Kling on couture.**
Style maven's takeover shows no signs of slowing down

ANNA SOKOLOWSKI
life@metronews.ca

Swedish style icon Elin Kling's life went through a complete makeover in 2007. This was when Kling, then 24 years old with an exceptionally creative sense of style, decided to start a blog.

Style by Kling became the leading fashion blog in Northern Europe in a matter of days. Five years later, Kling has become an internationally recognized fashion icon whose resumé seems to be growing by the minute.

Within the last two years, Kling has designed self-titled collections for H&M and Guess by Marciano. Victoria's Secret named the Scandinavian bombshell the sexiest cyber star in the lingerie giant's What Is Sexy? list, and she will shine as the new face of Louis Vuitton's upcoming online campaign next year.

Known for her minimalist looks, glimpses of the young model-turned-blogger-turned-designer-turned-entrepreneur can be caught on the glossy pages of fashion magazines such as Vogue, ELLE and Glamour.

"North America has a lot of young, cool designers right now, such as Alexander Wang, Phillip Lim and Altuzarra," says the Swedish golden girl, who has now relocated to New York City.

"Street style differs a lot. For example, Swedes have a very classic style, but it makes them look quite similar to each other. New Yorkers like to dress in a more playful, definitely flirtier and sexier way."

However, there are still aspects of international fashion that Kling says she wishes to learn about in the near future.

Elin Kling GETTY IMAGES

**Stop and shop**

**"I would love to explore the Canadian fashion scene in more detail and find out about the local designers."**

**Elin Kling**
Model-turned-blogger-turned-designer-turned-entrepreneur

"I would love to explore the Canadian fashion scene in more detail and find out about the local designers."

Although her last collection with Guess by Marciano was launched in November, the multi-entrepreneur's plan was never to work in the fashion industry. In fact, she doesn't care what's in right now or what the trends of today might be.

"It has been a very exciting year and I couldn't have dreamed about the response I have received for my collection with Marciano. However, my key advice for putting together a look is not to be trendy. I have plenty of fashion icons of my own, but to me it's actually more than enough to be French. There is something so classy about French women."

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# Styling your cell for less than half a million

**The case for iPhone.**
Got $300,000 burning a hole in your pocket? How about picking up a new Lotus case for your iPhone 5?

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

The price of the world's most expensive iPhone 5 case? $300,000. That's how much the Uunique Lotus, unveiled in November by Mischa Barton, goes for — phone not included.

Sublime or ridiculous, the Lotus — crafted from rose gold, pink and white diamonds and the finest Italian leather — sits majestically at the top of an industry valued at an estimated $6.7 billion for 2012.

Mike Morgan, senior analyst for mobile devices at ABI research, believes that "it's plausible to say that $600 million worth of iPhone cases for Q4 will be sold globally because they're attached to the biggest device magnet on the planet."

The reason behind this market's growth is obvious: "Smartphones are taking over from feature phones and have a higher attach rate," says Morgan. That's why owners are more willing to invest in accessorizing and personalizing their device.

Rapper Will.i.am has seized his own niche in the market with the launch of his iPhone camera accessory the i.am+, which transforms your camera into a 14 megapixel "social photo experience".

The timing couldn't be better with a reported more than 100 million Instagram users — the addition of a new picture dimension is likely to prove extremely popular with those addicted to documenting their daily lives.

For fashion labels and celebrities the benefits are clear: It allows luxury brands access to a wider share of the market, rather like fragrances do in the cosmetics sector and, of course, increases brand awareness amongst the public.

As Barton says, "I just wanted to incorporate the logo (the motif also appears on her clothing and handbag lines) which I designed and to establish the line as something that I do."

**Famous and fashionable**

**Mischa Barton is the latest celebrity to join the fashionable techcessories fold:**

- Versace, Mulberry, Marc by Marc Jacobs and even the traditional stationers Smythson are just a few who have jumped on the bandwagon.

**Make the call**

**"It's plausible to say that $600 million worth of iPhone cases for Q4 will be sold globally."**
**Mike Morgan**
Senior analyst at ABI research

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# Replacing the holiday bling

**I know once I take away the holiday ornaments that I will miss the bling around my home. Not only is it a dreary time of the year, but my place then seems so boring in comparison to the holidays. I love sparkle and lights. Is there a way to create that in a non-Christmassy way in my condo? -Sue Linn, Alberta**

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Elements of light, sparkle and shine create magic during the holiday time, but once the Christmas tree, mini lights and shiny baubles are gone there seems to be an unglittering withdrawal process for most homeowners.

There are many ways that designers add sparkle and shine to their interior projects. A few of these ideas will offer up some visual bling and keep you trendy until next year's Christmas decor makes its way back.

An electric fireplace can add the look of a realistic flame and some units offer heat options, which are great for creating a cozy environment. Whether wall-hung or floor-standing, a modern-style fireplace is the perfect way to turn an uninteresting plain room into a charming space.

## Electric Fireplace, $500, Costco

The Linear Wall Mount Electric Fireplace from Napoleon offers up a loungy feel in a bedroom or living area.

## Link Mirror, $1,250, CasaLife

Adding a decorative mirror to your space will reflect light and create an airiness to a room. Placed on a 90 degree wall to a window it will bounce light deeper into dark areas. The Link Mirror adds classic-designer charm with a unique metal frame.

## Rivet End Table, $350, Urban Barn

Glass topped tables are the perfect way to add sparkle, shine and create an open-looking space. A mix of glass, metal and mirror on the Rivet End Table offers a masculine shape with glamorous materials.

## Frosted Foil Pillow, $30, West Elm

Instant glamour hits a sofa, chair or bed when a metallic pillow finds its way. Frosted Foil Pillow forms add comfort and sheen.

## OUS Hanging Candleholder, $99, CB2

Glass or metal candle holders create the magic of the holidays year round. Group them for a glittery focal point in a room. OUS Hanging Candleholder is reminiscent of a holiday ornament with chic mid-century modern style.

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*Extras noted above are as per plan and as specified by Vendor. Some restrictions may apply. E.&O.E. December 2012. 20075

## Onion, Bacon & Cheddar Bites. Delectable appy

**Ingredients**

- 425 ml (1 3/4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 10 ml (2 tsp) baking powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 2 eggs
- 250 ml (1 cup) whole milk
- 4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 sweet red pepper, finely chopped
- 250 ml (1 cup) shredded cheddar cheese
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) minced red onion

**Topping**

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sour cream
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) hot sauce
- Minced fresh parsley and chopped sweet red pepper

**1.** In bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. In a large bowl, whisk eggs until frothy; whisk in milk. Fold in flour mix, stirring to combine. Fold in bacon, red pepper, cheese and onion.

**2.** Spoon a heaping 15 ml (1 tbsp) into well-greased mini-muffin cups. Bake in 230 C (450 F) oven until golden and puffed, about 15 minutes. Let cool on rack.

**3.** Topping: In bowl, mix sour cream and hot sauce. Spoon about 2 ml (1/2 tsp) topping onto each bite. Sprinkle with parsley and red pepper.

**4.** Cut each in half diagonally and arrange on platter. Serve with small bowl of sweet red chili sauce for dipping. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO**

# Ring in the new year with these creamy Crab Quiche Bites

When it comes to food, "recooked" isn't generally a term met with much affection. The dairy world, however, gives us a fine exception in ricotta cheese.

Ricotta — Italian for recooked — isn't exactly a stranger to most North Americans, who tend to love it in lasagna. But as cheeses go, its versatility is vastly underappreciated.

Ricotta got its name because it is made literally by recooking the liquid left over from making other cheese, often mozzarella. This is possible because when mozzarella or other cheeses are made, most, but not all, of the protein is removed from the liquid.

That leftover protein can be recooked and coagulated using a different, acid-based process.

The result is a soft, granular cheese with a texture somewhere between yogurt and cottage cheese. The taste is mild, milky, salty and slightly acidic.

And that acid is key. When cheese is formed using acid, the proteins become heat resistant. In other words, the cheese doesn't melt. It heats wonderfully, but doesn't reduce to a pool of goo.

This recipe makes 30 Quiche Bites. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Ingredients**

- Two 1.9-oz packages frozen mini phyllo dough cups (15 cups per package)
- 1/2 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup crab meat, finely chopped
- Grated Parmesan cheese

**1.** Heat the oven to 400 F. Arrange the phyllo cups on a rimmed baking sheet.

**2.** In a blender, combine the ricotta, eggs, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Blend until very smooth. Stir the crab meat into the egg mixture.

**3.** Carefully spoon a bit of the mixture into each phyllo cup, filling each about three-quarters full.

**4.** Sprinkle a bit of Parmesan over each cup, then bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the filling is set and starting to brown.

**5.** The quiche bites can be served hot, room temperature or chilled.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**


# Special Holiday Information

## Holiday Subway/RT Service Schedule

### Tuesday, December 25

Subway/RT starts at 9:00 a.m.

### Monday, December 31

Most routes with Monday – Friday late-evening service extended until 4:00 a.m.

**Ride Free on the TTC** 10:00 p.m. December 31, 2012 to 4:00 a.m. January 1, 2013

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## New Year's Eve last train details:

YONGE-UNIVERSITY-SPADINA SUBWAY leaves Union Station at 3:30 a.m. for Finch Station and 3:34 a.m. for Downsview Station.

BLOOR-DANFORTH SUBWAY leaves Bloor-Yonge Station at 3:37 a.m. for Kipling Station and at 3:37 a.m. for Kennedy Station.

SCARBOROUGH RT leaves Kennedy Station at 4:07 a.m. for McCowan Station.

SHEPPARD SUBWAY leaves Sheppard-Yonge Station at 3:58 a.m. for Don Mills Station.

### Tuesday, January 1

Subway/RT starts at 9:00 a.m.

## Holiday Bus/Streetcar Service Schedule

More information on bus and streetcar routes can be found at ttc.ca or plan your trip in advance by visiting tripplanner.ttc.ca.

www.ttc.ca 416-393-4636

Canadian game

## Cherry tweets disdain for Russia's Yakupov

Don Cherry isn't happy about Russian sniper Nail Yakupov's comments regarding Canadian hockey players.

The commentator used Twitter to respond to a report Yakupov told a Russian website that Canadian players are "dirty."

The No. 1 pick in the 2012 NHL draft by the Edmonton Oilers, Yakupov played two seasons with the OHL's Sarnia Sting, collecting 80 goals and 80 assists in 107 games.

"I see where Nail Yakupov said Canadian hockey players are dirty," Cherry tweeted Wednesday. "Let me see.... We let him take a Canadian kids (sic) spot in the Canadian Hockey League, let him learn his hockey in our program, treat him royally, give him great coaching so he can go number one overall and he calls us Dirty."

Canada will meet tournament hosts Russia on Monday in the final Pool B round-robin game for both teams at the world junior hockey championship in Ufa.

Cherry, who has a long history of criticizing European players, added: "I could care less what Nail thinks of us, what bugs me, he took a Canadian kids (sic) spot in the Canadian Hockey League."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don Cherry GETTY IMAGES FILE

Canadian world junior captain Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, centre, celebrates his goal against Germany on Wednesday in Ufa, Russia. The Edmonton Oilers centre also had four assists in the tournament-opening win for Canada. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Captain puts on cape for Canada in opener

**World juniors.** Lone NHLer Nugent-Hopkins starts tournament with five-point game against Germany

Preliminary round

| Canada | Germany |
|---|---|
| 9 | 3 |

The black cape draped over the shoulders of Ryan Nugent-Hopkins was a statement about the expectations on Canada's captain at the world junior hockey championship.

The Canadian coaching staff will hand out the cape after each game of the tournament to the player who distinguishes himself.

A five-point game by Nugent-Hopkins in Canada's 9-3 win over Germany on Wednesday was more than enough to make him the first recipient.

"You need heroic plays in an event like this," Canadian head coach Steve Spott explained to reporters following the game. "Game pucks, hard helmets — they've all been done, but we thought the cape was something unique and embarrasses them a little when they have to come out and face you guys.

"It could be a save or a blocked shot, but I thought tonight it was fitting. He had a great game and is the leader of our club."

Nugent-Hopkins led Canada with a goal and four assists while showcasing his playmaking abilities, albeit against a country that had virtually no chance of beating the Canadians.

The spotlight is on the Canadian team's lone NHLer in a season where that league has locked out its players, and thus made the Edmonton Oilers forward available for the competition.

"I think no matter where you go there's going to be pressure and expectations," Nugent-Hopkins said. "Being from Canada, there's a lot of pressure and we're going to put that pressure on ourselves too and each other."

Linemates Mark Scheifele scored twice, including a shorthanded goal, and Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal and two assists. That trio of players likely would have played in the NHL this season if not for the lockout.

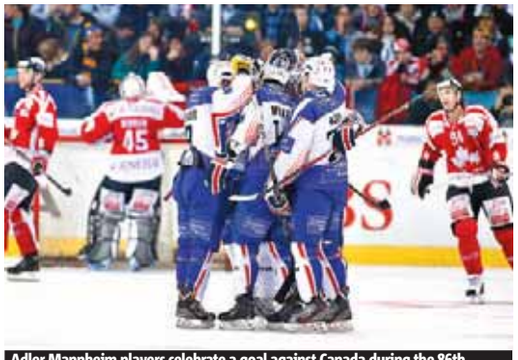
"All three of those players have an NHL mindset and NHL abilities," Spott said.

Nugent-Hopkins has already played a season for the Oilers. Scheifele is a Winnipeg Jets prospect and Huberdeau is Florida Panthers property.

Ty Rattie, Ryan Strome, Jonathan Drouin and defencemen Xavier Ouellet and Tyler Wotherspoon had the other goals for Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 'No panic' after slow Spengler Cup start



Adler Mannheim players celebrate a goal against Canada during the 86th Spengler Cup on Wednesday in Davos, Switzerland. SALVATORE DI NOLFI/KEYSTONE

An opening-game loss at the Spengler Cup hasn't shaken the confidence of Team Canada.

Jason Pominville scored on a breakaway three minutes into overtime Wednesday as Adler Mannheim shocked Canada with a 2-1 victory.

Tyler Seguin scored the lone goal for Canada in the third period as the roster loaded with NHL talent had trouble finding its scoring touch.

"There's no panic in us right now," said Canadian forward Matt Duchene. "We all think we played a pretty good game, there were lots of bounces and opportunities that we just weren't able to put in."

Pominville, a locked-out member of the NHL's Buffalo Sabres from Repentigny, Que., ripped a low shot past Canadian goalie Jonathan Bernier to give the top team in the German league a surprising victory.

"I know Bernier a little bit, so there was a lot of mind-playing going on in the moment," said Pominville after the game. "I'm just glad it went in to get the big victory for our team."

First played in 1923, the Spengler Cup annually pits Davos and Canada against four European club teams in a six-day tournament in Switzerland.

Dennis Endras made 34 saves for Mannheim, including a breakaway stop on Patrice Bergeron moments before Pominville's winner.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Up next

**Canada now faces hosts HC Davos on Thursday.**

- Though they already have a spot in the elimination round, a win would give Canada a chance to go directly to the semifinals.

4 SPORTS

## Canadiens' Gorges finds new hockey habitat

**Locked-out NHLer Josh Gorges, right, jockeys for position on Wednesday during a game of pickup hockey in Montreal. With the NHL lockout in its fourth month, the Canadiens' defenceman looked to an unusual source to find his next hockey game: Twitter. Gorges, 28, extended an open invite to join him at a Montreal rink on Boxing Day afternoon. Dozens of players, ranging widely in age and skill level, packed into a rink in the city's Verdun neighbourhood for a chance to skate alongside an NHL player.**

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Some see Christmas start as a better option for NBA

**Learning from lockout.**
Season openers wouldn't be played in NFL shadow with late-December start

**Heat forward LeBron James dunks against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday in Miami. The Heat won the rematch of last season's Finals 103-97 in one of the NBA's five games on Christmas Day.** J PAT CARTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doc Rivers left home for the holidays, lost the game and loved every minute of it.

"That was perfect," Rivers said, recalling the Boston Celtics' 2011-12 season opener. "I just think it was awesome."

A year after the NBA started its season on Christmas out of necessity, Rivers and others think it's something the league should consider doing regularly. The 2011-12 schedule consisted of 66 games, and while even the advocates for the later start aren't certain how many should be played, they believe it's something worth exploring.

"I think starting on Christmas Day would be better and then going later into July, I think that would be better so the start of our season wasn't overshadowed as much by NFL football and college football," ABC and ESPN analyst Jeff Van Gundy said. "If you did that, obviously you'd have to extend into July a little bit. But I think 66 games, the only bad thing about that would be people losing some money and so because of that, no one's ever going to do that."

A normal 82-game schedule was impossible last season when owners and players couldn't agree to a new labour contract in time. The lockout dragged into November before a tentative agreement was struck on Thanksgiving weekend. It was ratified two weeks later, abbreviated training camps opened Dec. 9 and teams had a little more than two weeks to prepare for the start of the season.

After the expected complaints about lack of preparation and possibility of injury, the season opened with hype that's rarely there for the usual start around Halloween. The first game was in New York, where the Knicks withstood a last shot by Kevin Garnett to hold off the Celtics.

"I thought that game — I thought it was so anticipated, (a) lot of fun. The buzz in Madison Square Garden was amazing," Rivers said. "I really did, I thought it was absolutely wonderful, the timing with football almost over, people ready for basketball."

With football king, even the NBA seems to realize it should lie low in the fall. ABC doesn't begin its national TV schedule until its Christmas doubleheader, and the league and its TV partners kick the hype machine into gear leading into the holiday, with statistics galore about who's played most often, who's played best, who's wearing what uniform, and anything else that can help build the buzz.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Toronto Raptors' Boxing Day game in San Antonio.

Ryder Hesjedal readies himself for a training ride on June 28 in Lanaken, Belgium, in preparation for the Tour de France. Hesjedal, the 2012 Giro d'Italia champion, was named Canadian Press male athlete of the year. DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

# Giro winner Hesjedal at the summit of Canadian sports

**Lionel Conacher Award.** Victoria native first cyclist to be named Canadian Press male athlete of year

Don't tell Ryder Hesjedal he won the Giro d'Italia on the last day.

His victorious ride lasted 91 hours 39 minutes two seconds over 21 stages, covering 3,503.8 kilometres from Herning, Denmark, to Milan.

It took 23 days in May — there were two rest days — and the help of every one of his Garmin-Sharp teammates and support staff for Hesjedal to become the first Canadian racer to win a Grand Tour event and only the second non-European to win the Giro.

His journey from peloton to podium took him more than a dozen years as a pro, from mountain biker to roadracer.

And now it has led him to the Lionel Conacher Award, the first cyclist to be named Canadian Press male athlete of the year.

"An incredible honour," the soft-spoken Hesjedal said from his off-season home in Hawaii.

"I finished 2011, I got married to my beautiful wife (Ashley) and I was just focused on that goal — taking a crack at the Giro and knowing that deep down I have the capacity for three-week racing," he added.

"For the season to unfold the way it did in the spring and have that perfect run, really, in respect to my training, was just right — I didn't get sick, I had no setbacks. To arrive at the Giro and have it unfold the way it did, I had the opportunity to show myself and that's what athletes dream of."

The award is named after the multi-sport athlete who was chosen Canada's athlete of the half-century. Canada's female athlete of the year will be announced Thursday.

Hesjedal finished with 139 points and 32 first-place votes in balloting of sports editors and broadcasters across the country. Tennis star Milos Raonic was runner-up with 131 points and 26 first-place votes.

Calgary Stampeders running back Jon Cornish was third (87, 14), followed by Tampa Bay Lightning sniper Steven Stamkos (69, 12) and figure skater Patrick Chan (68, 11).

"Ryder Hesjedal put himself, and Canadian cycling, on the world stage with his historic victory in the Giro d'Italia," said Yahoo's Steve McAllister.

The 32-year-old from Victoria will wear the No. 1 bib as he opens defence of his Giro title on May 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Hesjedal fact file**

- **Born:** Dec. 9, 1980
- **Hometown:** Victoria
- **Size:** Six-foot-two, 159 pounds
- **2012 highlight:** Won the Giro d'Italia in May, becoming the first Canadian to capture one of Europe's Grand Tour events.
- **Last season:** After his victory at the Giro, the Garmin-Sharp cyclist had high hopes for the Tour de France but was forced to withdraw after injuring his leg and hip in a crash. Hesjedal, who also competed at the London Olympics, finished the year 13th in the UCI World Tour rankings.
- **Career highlights:** A three-time Olympian, the former mountain biker finished sixth at the 2010 Tour de France.

# United extend gap over rival City

Javier Hernandez of Manchester United celebrates the winning goal against Newcastle United on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Javier Hernandez sent Manchester United seven points clear at the Premier League summit by pouncing in the 90th minute to clinch a 4-3 victory over Newcastle as second-place Manchester City lost at Sunderland on Wednesday.

At the season's halfway point, United had to come from behind three times in a tumultuous, incident-filled match at Old Trafford before Hernandez buried the decisive goal.

"Once again they have proved their courage, never gave in — down three times and came back three times, and eventually deserved to win the game," United manager Alex Ferguson said.

"Never mind where we are at this moment in time, this was a championship performance."

Newcastle looked like producing its first win at Old Trafford since 1972, but United's fighting spirit can rarely be suppressed.

For the eighth time this season in the league, Alex Ferguson's players came from behind to win and keep a 20th English title in their sights.

But there will be lingering concerns about a defence that has now conceded 28 goals in 19 games, compared with 33 in the whole of last season.

As United bounced back from Sunday's draw at Swansea, City's three-match winning run came to an end after its former winger, Adam Johnson, gave Sunderland a 1-0 victory over the champions.

Johnson, who was offloaded in the off-season after winning the title with City, managed to leave Joe Hart red faced as his strike was deflected into the net by the goalkeeper in the 53rd.

"Last year we didn't win here and we won the title," City manager Roberto Mancini said. "It's important that our strikers start scoring more goals, sometimes we take one touch too many."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

## Injured Valanciunas to miss 4 to 6 weeks

Toronto Raptors rookie Jonas Valanciunas is expected to be out four to six weeks while he recovers from a hand injury, the club said Wednesday.

Valanciunas was battling for a loose ball under the basket when he fell and broke the ring finger on his right hand during Toronto's 93-90 victory over the Orlando Magic on Dec. 21.

The seven-foot Lithuanian centre saw hand specialist Dr. Herb von Schroeder in Toronto on Saturday but it was determined surgery will not be required.

Valanciunas has started in all 28 games for the Raptors this season, averaging 7.8 points per game and 5.2 rebounds. He's fourth in the league among rookies in rebounds and blocks per game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jonas Valanciunas grimaces after dislocating his finger on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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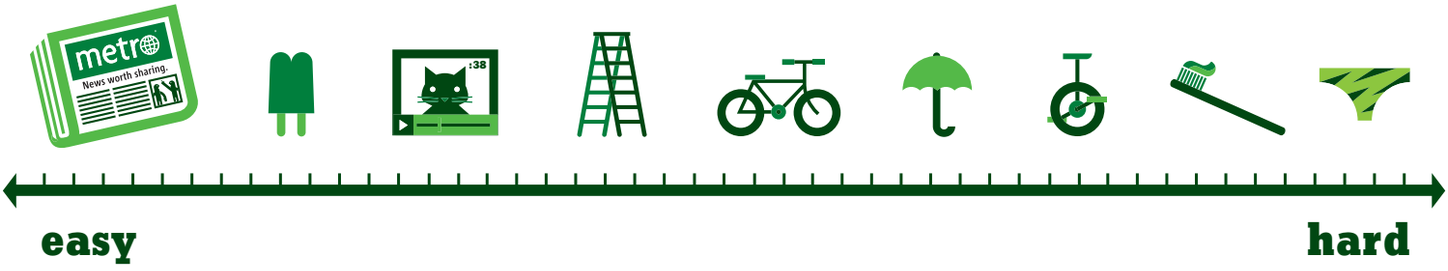


## Horoscopes

### Aries
**March 21 - April 20**
Strive to be a bit more cautious than usual today. Money and career issues need to be handled with care as partners and work colleagues might not be entirely trustworthy. Have fun by all means but be sensible too.

### Taurus
**April 21 - May 21**
If certain individuals have been less than helpful of late, what happens next will make up for it. Life has a tendency to swing from one extreme to the other and what limited you yesterday will bring you luck today.

### Gemini
**May 22 - June 21**
Both at home and at work things are starting to go your way again, so wipe that sorry look from your face and replace it with a smile. Good news of one sort or another is sure to lift your spirits today.

### Cancer
**June 22 - July 23**
Make the most of today's positive influences to push ahead with your plans. Don't listen to what others say is and is not possible, listen to what your inner voice tells you. Success is yours if you truly desire it.

### Leo
**July 24 - Aug. 23**
Today's Saturn-Pluto link makes you determined to see through something everyone else says you should abandon. You have never been the sort to admit defeat and you are not about to start now. You can make it work.

### Virgo
**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**
A door that has been closed to you in the past will suddenly swing open and all you have to do is walk through to the other side. Is there a catch? Maybe, but even if there is, it should be worth it.

### Libra
**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**
You may not get everything you desire today, but you will get enough to give your confidence a boost and keep you moving toward your long-term goal. Someone you love will lift your spirits too. It's all good.

### Scorpio
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**
Today's link between Saturn and your ruler Pluto will protect you from harm, so make a few moves and take a few risks because there is a very good chance they will pay off. There's no time like the present.

### Sagittarius
**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**
Let someone know they must meet you halfway if they are serious about ending a feud. If you give in too easily, they will mark you down as an easy touch and it won't be long before they try to cheat you again.

### Capricorn
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**
The most important thing now is the attitude you bring to everyday matters. If your perspective is right, then everything will fall into place sooner or later. Your mind creates your world — make it one worth living in.

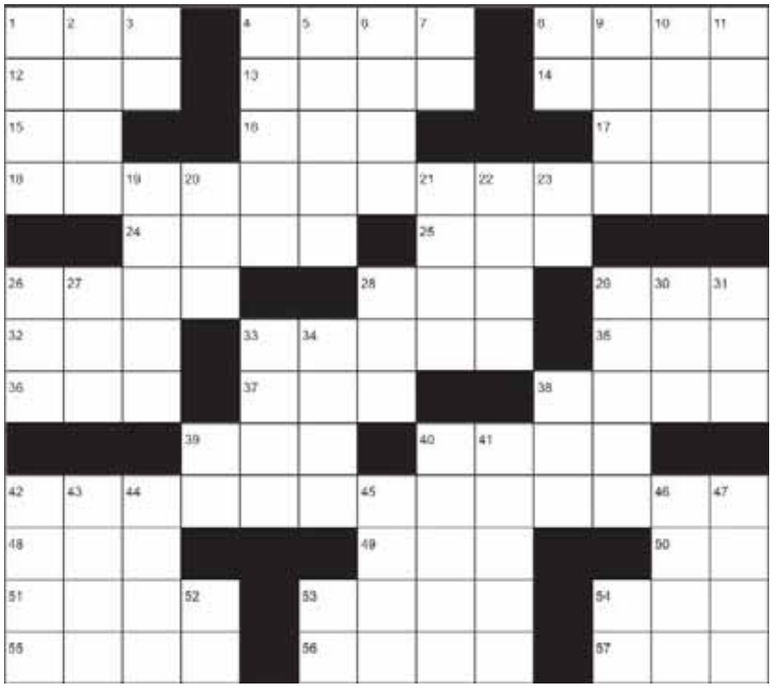
### Aquarius
**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**
If there is a habit you want to break free of, now is the time to do something about it. Saturn and Pluto will help you find the strength of mind to change your life for the better — but the effort must come from you.

### Pisces
**Feb. 20 - March 20**
You have everything going for you at the moment — even tomorrow's full moon will benefit you in some way. Try turning an idea into a concrete reality over the next 24 hours.

SALLY BROMPTON

## Crossword

BY BETTY MARTIN



**Across**
1. — Miss Brooks
4. Italian wine
8. Storyline
12. Hagen of Broadway
13. Set down
14. Weapon in Clue
15. Peru's continent (abbr.)
16. Liniment for the Tin Man
17. Actress Peeples
18. Masked man of early TV (3 words)
24. Departed
25. Museum display
26. Fancy spread
28. GPS reading
29. Sci-Fi computer
32. Wedding words
33. Hawaiian greeting
35. Conceit
36. Pig's digs
37. Writer Anais
38. Web journal
39. Around the edge
40. Make airtight
42. Prince Edward Island capital
48. First name in horror
49. Rowboat need
50. Common Latin abbr.
51. Tons (2 words)
53. Actress Loughlin of Full House
54. Actress Sue — Langdon
55. Confined (with up)
56. End of a threat
57. Total up

**Down**
1. Send packing
2. Four Corners st.
3. Egyptian Sun God
4. Standoffish
5. Paragon of virtue
6. Floor covering
7. Boise st.
8. Twosome (abbr.)
9. Have a hankering
10. Early Ron Howard role
11. Eye drop
19. Rocker John
20. Director Spike
21. Allergic reaction
22. Neck of the woods
23. New Testament (abbr.)
26. Citrus seed
27. Fruit drink
28. Ages and ages
29. Conversation starter
30. Of a previous time
31. Captain's journal
33. Indigo source
34. Airport transport
38. Cave dweller
39. Country address abbr.
40. Dancing with the —
41. Spooky
42. Applaud
43. Puncture
44. Later
45. Hammer or sickle
46. — at My Back
47. Have to have
52. Bones actress (init.)
53. Pepe – Pew of cartoons
54. Battery sz.

### Monday's Crossword

### What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

## Sudoku

**How to play**
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

### Monday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | | | 5 | | | 6 |
| 7 | | | | 8 | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | 1 | 4 | |
| 6 | | | 3 | 5 | | | | 9 |
| 8 | | | 4 | | 9 | | | 5 |
| 9 | | | | 7 | 2 | | | 4 |
| | 9 | 1 | | | | 8 | | |
| | | | | 2 | | | | 1 |
| 4 | | | 6 | | | 2 | | |

Today
-3°/-7°
Flurries
40%

Friday
-4°/-6°
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